

U. S. Role in Cuba

It appeared that the United States played a larger role than had been acknowledged in the disastrous attempt of Cuban exiles to invade Cuba in the hope of overthrowing Premier Fidel Castro.

Although it does not admit it, the Central Intelligence Agency (C. I. A.) seems to have had a major hand in training the exiles for the invasion that Castro defeated even before they could seize a beachhead in Cuba. There was reason to believe that the C. I. A. gave the signal for the invasion attempt. There also was



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Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, driving away after a White House conference Thursday.

reason to believe that American ships helped to transport the ill-fated invaders to Cuba from bases in Latin America.

The White House press secretary, Pierre Salinger, stated that President Kennedy accepted "sole responsibility" for whatever role the United States played in the Cuban invasion debacle. The statement was made to forestall partisan debate about it. Republicans had criticized a television comment by Secretary of the Interior Stewart T. Udall, who said an invasion plot had been developed in the Eisenhower administration, and he quickly expressed regret that his remarks had been so construed.

The next question was what Kennedy can do now to retrieve matters. Should he approve the training of other Cuban exiles for another attempt? If there is to be another try at invasion, should he back it up with much stronger American aid?

A survivor of the invasion, Masco who was rescued from the sea and landed at Corpus Christi, Tex., said the attack failed largely because Castro's forces were so prompt in blocking the invading exiles at the beach before they could make contact with the anti-Castro underground in the mountains and the cities. This raised the question as to whether Castro had spies who tipped him off regarding the plans of the invaders.

Cuba's President Osvaldo Dorticos told diplomats in Havana on Friday that Cuba was willing to discuss its problems with the United States government and even to re-open diplomatic relations. The State Department replied coldly that "communism in this hemisphere is not negotiable." The Cuban problem, said the spokesman, is a problem for Latin American nations in general, not just between Washington and Havana.